

Testimony of John Souza in front of the Government Administration
and Election Committee 3/4/2022

I Oppose SB184 and HB 5362

There is no reason to change the definitions of who may use an absentee ballot. The changes proposed by these 2 bills allow, by default, a no excuse needed “mail in” ballot, which was never intended by our constitution. **The vast majority of votes should occur in person, with a valid ID, on election day only.** Absentee votes should remain as they always have, allowed only under certain narrow circumstances.

- In CT, during the great covid election of 2020, over 80,000 mailed ballots were returned undeliverable! I get nervous wondering who is in charge of the voter rolls considering many elections for governor in CT have been decided by less than 10,000 total votes.
- The opportunity for fraud is just too tempting to resist when massive amounts of ballots are out of sight and control of election officials on voting day. The opportunity for vote harvesting, voter impersonation, deceased voters voting, etc...is greatly increased with thousands of unsupervised ballots floating around. I personally know of someone who received 4 mail in ballots during 2020; 1st in her maiden name , 2nd in her first marriage name, 3rd in her divorced name and 4th in her newly married name!

- **Both these bills will only serve to further disenfranchise 50% of the population who are losing faith in the integrity of our Election System. This in itself, should be enough not to pass these bills.**

Thank you for your consideration and I will answer any Questions.